



Baptists debate Full Gospel/8B

Mason's first season in Charlotte jars Hornets/1B



'Daddy Where Are You' plays Ovens Auditorium/4B

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NAACP may decide Alexander's fate Saturday

By John Minter
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Kelly Alexander Jr. may finally learn Saturday what the NAACP national board of directors plans to do about allegations he misused funds while president of the N.C. Conference of Branches.

Alexander was suspended and an audit ordered in May. However, a full audit was never

completed and Alexander resigned in October after the national board gave him 30 days to provide financial records for an account he maintained at Merrill Lynch under the NAACP's name.

Also, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg chapter will have to hold new elections for the office of secretary, but the Rev. Conrad Pridgen can take over as president.

The national board has not formally accepted Alexander's resignation and has said it will finally resolve the matter at its meeting in New York City.

According to



Alexander

financial records obtained by The Post, Alexander spent thousands of dollars from the account, which held as much as half of state NAACP funds from 1989 until a new treasurer took office last spring.

Alexander was suspended after the new treasurer, Z. Ann Hoyle of Hickory, filed a complaint to national officials.

Pridgen had been unopposed in the November branch elec-

tions, but an election challenge by Valerie Woodard and two dozen other members, held up any changes.

The secretary position held by John Davis was the only officer opposed in the election, in which 81 members voted. Davis was reelected over Elaine Grier.

Chapter president Alfred Alexander said Wednesday he doesn't know when the new election will be held.

"They (national NAACP officials) will appoint an election supervisor," Alexander said. "We have to wait until they do that."

The local branch will move ahead with installation of other officers, including Pridgen, Alexander said.

"Rev. Pridgen has asked me to have an installation on March 2," he said. "As far as I am con-

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Praying for a miracle



PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON

Fifteen-month-old Gore Vaughn has the support of his family as they wait for a suitable donor kidney. Spending quality time with Gore are (from left) his father, Cleveland, mother Karol and brother Chancy, age 10. Gore suffers from cirrhosis of the liver, a condition he was born with.

Donor sought for 15-month-old

By John Minter
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Gore Vaughn is just now getting used to his grandparents. The 15-month-old has missed being the center of attention at family gatherings, as are most babies in their first year of life.

He can't go to day care centers with other children. He has to have a private sitter.

Gore needs a liver transplant because he has cirrhosis. He had a chance for one last

summer, but was too sick to withstand the rigors of surgery. So now he and his parents, Cleveland and Karol Vaughn, wait anxiously for what they hope will be a life-saving phone call.

Meanwhile, the couple's medical bills are mounting. They have spent over \$25,000 on medication since Gore was born on Nov. 12, 1995. The family is trying to raise funds to help cover its high medical bills.

A liver transplant, without

complications, will cost well over \$250,000, Karol Vaughn, a teacher at Piney Grove Elementary School, said.

Adding to the couple's financial strain was Cleveland Vaughn's job change last summer. His company, Evtech Chemical, moved to Greensboro, but Vaughn, a chemical operator who mixed inks and dyes, decided to stay in Charlotte to be close to Gore.

"I had been in the school system six years, but it was hard

to take off from work," Karol Vaughn said. "We found he had to take off to stay home with Gore."

Because of the high medical bills, Cleveland Vaughn had to go back to work and now works part-time maintaining parking lots in downtown Charlotte with Central Parking System. He works from 7 a.m.-1 p.m., giving him more time with Gore.

Gore can't go to a regular day care because his immune

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Fill in welfare gaps, senator encourages

By Brent Watters
CHATHAM-SOUTHEAST CITIZEN

U.S. Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun (D-Ill.) encouraged ministers to help provide some relief to people who will be affected by the new welfare reform bill which will go into effect in July.

Speaking at Carter Temple CME Church in Chicago, Braun focused her discussion on the Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act, which replaces the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program with the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program.

Before discussing the negative impact the act will have, Braun insisted that ministers present take action as the state works to put the finishing touches on the welfare reform package. Braun said despite bill's impact on welfare recipients, the act authorizes states to administer TANF through contracts to charitable, religious, and private organizations.

"What it means is that institutions like the church, which has traditionally taken on these responsibilities with the use of Sunday donations, are now eligible to qualify for grants from the state," she said. "This will be dictated on how Illinois decides to handle this. So I



Braun

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Urban League sued by former staffer

By J. Zangba Browne
AMSTERDAM NEWS

NEW YORK — A former executive of the National Urban League has filed charges in federal district court charging that she was sexually harassed by a top aide of Hugh Price, the organization's president. Her charges also allege unlawfully termination from the League, one of the nation's leading civil rights organizations.

Sonia E. Butler alleges in court papers that Dr. Curtiss Porter repeatedly tried to coerce her into a sexual relationship

with him, and because she wouldn't acquiesce he orchestrated her ouster as director of affiliate leadership development.

In her position, Butler, a Yale University graduate, was responsible for administering a \$1.9 million grant from the Kellogg Foundation to establish

See SUIT on page 3A

Watkins plans for city's future

By John Minter
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Stanley Watkins has spent the last 22 years planning Charlotte's growth.

Now he's getting a chance to put some of those plans into action.

"Plans just give vision, direction and identification to the issues," said Watkins, who took over as manager of the city's neighborhood development unit on Jan. 6. "Planners leave to others to make vision reality. In Neighborhood Development, we make reality happen."

In the city's planning department Watkins was most recently head of the community plan-

ning section, designing long-range plans such as the 2005 and 2015 studies.

He dealt with such issues as land use, transportation corridors and economic development by outlining what the city would like to happen.

Now he's in charge of a section whose job is to make those things happen, especially in the designated City Within A City area within 4 miles of downtown.

Watkins, a North Mecklenburg High School graduate, attended East Carolina University, earning a degree in urban and regional planning in 1975.

"The mission of this depart-

ment is to improve city neighborhoods and the lives of people that live in those neighborhoods," Watkins said.

The city is building a series of partnerships with private agencies and businesses to help rebuild dozens of communities surrounding the uptown area. Efforts focus on rehabilitation of housing and businesses, building new housing units, fostering new businesses and, where necessary, building infrastructure such as sidewalks and storm drainage.

This weekend, the city will join in the kickoff of a major effort in the Wingate community off Oaklawn Avenue in West

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PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON

Stanley Watkins' job is to oversee neighborhood growth.

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